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THE Four Kunoichi
BLOOD LUST
CLEARY

ELSEWHERE, THE FOUR KUNOICHI RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGE AFTER AN EXHAUSTING BATTLE AND A DAY LONG JOURNEY.
HERE WE ARE, SISTERS. WE'RE FINALLY HOME!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE KUNOICHI HAVE RETURNED!
IS IT REALLY THEM?
COULD IT BE?
PAPA?
DAUGHTER?

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THE FOUR KUNOICHI: BLOODLUST#1. FIRST PRINTING. December, 1996. Published by Lightning Entertainment, Inc. Price: $2.75 for Regular Edition; $9.95 for Commemorative Platinum Edition; $9.95 for Nude Edition; $29.95 for Platinum Nude Edition (U.S. currency). Lightning Comics is Copyright © and Trademark TM 1996, Joseph A. Zyskowski and Steven V. Zyskowski, all rights reserved. Office of publication: 23182 Tuck Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. THE FOUR KUNOICHI (including all predominant characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likeness thereof) are Copyright © and Trademark TM 1996, John Cleary, all rights reserved.

Printed in Canada

JAPAN...500 A.D.
HONORABLE MASTER, I SUMMON THY AWAKENING!
WITH THE SPILLING OF MY BLOOD, I OFFER THEE MY BODY, SOUL AND MIND... YOURS TO DO WITH AS THY WILL!
OH, GREAT ONNYO, LORD OF THE DAMNED, HEAR MY DESPERATE CRY... RISE AND COME FORTH FROM THE PITS OF HELL!
ZRAAAP!
IT IS TIME TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LEGIONS OF DARKNESS AND RECLAIM YOUR GLORY ON EARTH!

I ACCEPT YOUR HUMBLE SACRIFICE, MY FAITHFUL SERVANT, AND TAKE YOUR BODY AS MY OWN! YOUR PRECIOUS GIFT SHALL BE REWARDED IN THE BOWELS OF THE UNDERWORLD AS THE BEASTS OF DEATH DEVOUR YOUR SOUL!
THE PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED! I HAVE FINALLY CONQUERED DEATH! NOW IT IS TIME FOR MY ARMY OF DARKNESS TO RISE AND TAKE RULE OVER THIS PATHETIC WORLD!
THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE, BUT FIRST I MUST ATTEND TO ANOTHER MATTER WHICH I HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF PARTAKING FOR CENTURIES!
IT IS TIME TO FEAST!
HA! HA! HA! HA!

ELSEWHERE, THE FOUR KUNOICHI RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGE AFTER AN EXHAUSTING BATTLE AND A DAY LONG JOURNEY.
HERE WE ARE, SISTERS. WE'RE FINALLY HOME!
COULD IT BE?
IS IT REALLY THEM?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE KUNOICHI HAVE RETURNED!
PAPA?
DAUGHTER?

MEI-LYN, MY PRECIOUS LITTLE GIRL! THANKS BE TO THE FOUR KUNOICHI!
OH, PAPA. I FEARED I WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
FUGI, ON BEHALF OF MY SISTERS, MIYO, SORI AND SAIPE, WE'RE HAPPY WE COULD BE OF SERVICE.
YES! IN FACT, WE KINDA' ENJOYED THE ADVENTURE!
KICKIN' MONSTER BUTT IS WHAT WE GIRLS DO BEST!
GREETINGS, MY BRAVE DAUGHTERS! I AM PLEASED YOUR JOURNEY WAS SUCCESSFUL!
THANK YOU, FATHER. WE WOULD NOT HAVE TRIUMPHED WITHOUT YOUR TRAINING AND GUIDANCE.
KAIRA, YOU AND YOUR SISTERS MAKE ME VERY PROUD! NOW TELL ME EVERYTHING...JUST AS IT HAPPENED.

WELL, YOU SEE, FATHER, IT ALL HAPPENED LIKE THIS...*
"AFTER A FEW HOURS OF BEING ON THE MONSTER'S TRAIL, WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A CAVE, STARING AT A GLOWING BALL OF LIGHT."
"WE WALKED INTO THE LIGHT AND SAW BEFORE US THE CASTLE OF THE DEAD! WE REASONED THE MONSTER HAD TAKEN FUGI'S DAUGHTER INSIDE AND DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE."
"NEEDLESS TO SAY, FROM THE MOMENT WE ENTERED THE CASTLE, THINGS BEGAN TO GET A LITTLE CRAZY!"
* SEE KUNOICHI #1 AUGUST, 1996 FOR DETAILS!

"THESE WEIRD, LITTLE CREATURES SUDDENLY JUMPED OUT FROM NOWHERE AND STARTED GIVING US TROUBLE!"
"WHILE THE OTHER GIRLS FOUGHT OFF THE LITTLE FREAKS, I HAD BIGGER PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH!"
"SOON, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL, THEY ALL FELL BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE FOUR KUNOICHI!"
"WE DEFEATED THE MONSTERS, RESCUED FUJI'S DAUGHTER AND RETURNED TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING."
"THE REST, AS THEY SAY, 'IS HISTORY'."

MY DAUGHTERS, YOU HAVE MADE ME VERY PROUD. MY TIME AS YOUR TEACHER IS OVER.
YOU HAVE PASSED THE FINAL TEST AND MUST NOW PREPARE FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE... QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST CHALLENGING QUEST YOU GIRLS WILL EVER FACE.
WHAT IS IT, FATHER?
YOU MUST SEEK OUT YOUR TRUE ANCESTORS...THE KOGA NINJA! IT IS WITH THEM THAT YOU TRULY BELONG.
WE UNDERSTAND, FATHER. WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU.
YOU WILL BE IN OUR HEARTS FOR ALL OF ETERNITY.
WE WILL RETURN SOMEDAY, FATHER. THIS I PROMISE.

THE NEXT NIGHT...
NO! PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
GO AWAY!
AH, MY PRECIOUS. DID YOU THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE ME? LOOK INTO MY GAZE...
BA-WHOOSH
YES, MY MASTER.
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! COME FORWARD, GIRL! SURRENDER YOUR LIFE UNTO ME!

OH MY SWEET, YOUR LIFE IS LIKE AN ENDLESS, CRIMSON RIVER OF PLEASURE! I SHALL SAVOR EVERY LAST DROP OF YOUR SUSTENANCE! THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT IS SO INTOXICATING! SO...
DELICIOUS!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

NEARBY, THE FOUR KUNOICHI CONTINUE THEIR QUEST TO DISCOVER THE FATE OF THEIR KOGA NINJA CLAN...
SWOOSH
YOU KNOW, IT'S GETTING KINDA' LATE. MAYBE WE SHOULD START LOOKING FOR A SPOT TO SET UP CAMP. ALL THIS WALKING IS MAKING ME TIRED. I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE IN A RACE OR ANYTHING!
WHAT WAS THAT? PROBABLY JUST THE WIND.
WHAT'YA MEAN I'M LAZY?! I WORK JUST AS HARD AS THE REST OF YOU!
QUIT YOUR CRYIN', MIYO! I SWEAR, YOU'RE SO LAZY SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE KUNOICHI!
YOU KNOW, MIYO, A NINJA MUST POSSESS A STRONG MIND AS WELL AS A STRONG BODY. IF YOU DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TO GO THE EXTRA MILE, HOW CAN YOUR BODY MAINTAIN ITSELF AS A TRUE NINJA? THINK ABOUT IT!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, KAIRA. I SUPPOSE I HAVE BEEN ACTING A BIT FOOLISH, LATELY. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. I'LL KEEP UP.
THAT'S THE NINJA SPIRIT, MIYO! I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.

KAIRA, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT STORY FATHER TOLD US ABOUT THE CREATURE WHO LIVES IN THE FOREST OF THE DAMNED... THE ONE THAT DRAINS ALL THE BLOOD FROM ITS VICTIMS?
YES. WHY DO YOU ASK, SORI?
THIS MIGHT SOUND ODD, BUT I THINK WE MIGHT BE IN THAT FOREST!
UH...WAS THAT THE FOREST THAT HAD ITS ENTRANCE MARKED WITH A TREE THAT HAD A SKULL CARVED INTO ITS TRUNK?
YES! I THINK SO! WHY MIYO?
'CAUSE, I THINK...I MIGHT HAVE SEEN A TREE LIKE THAT A COUPLE MILES BACK!
MIYO! ARE YOU TELLING US YOU SAW THAT TREE AND SAID NOTHING?! ARE YOU TRYING TO GET US ALL KILLED?!
FIGHTING STANCE!
IF THE LEGEND IS TRUE, WE'D BETTER BE ON GUARD UNTIL WE'VE EXITED THE FOREST!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE MIGHT ENCOUNTER!

MAYBE WE'RE OVERREACTING. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'RE IN THE FOREST OF THE DAMNED.
KRACK!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
I'VE GOT A STRANGE FEELING WE'RE NOT ALONE.
AAHRGH!
GREETINGS, VISITORS!
I'M SO HAPPY YOU DECIDED TO COME BY!
NOT ONE, NOT TWO, NOT EVEN THREE...BUT FOUR VISIONS OF BEAUTY STAND BEFORE ME!
OH, HOW I'LL SAVOR THE TASTE OF YOUR BLOOD!
AIEEE!

I DON'T THINK SO, DEMON! YOU PICKED THE WRONG GIRLS TO MESS WITH, TONIGHT!
AH, THE FEISTY ONES ALWAYS TASTE SO MUCH BETTER!
ALL YOU'LL TASTE TONIGHT, DEMON, IS DEFEAT!
FWH
AK!
EA-AAGH!

I SEE NOW THAT YOU LIKE IT ROUGH! OOOH, I'M GETTING EXCITED! I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME FUN BEFORE I DRAIN YOUR YOUTHFUL BODIES OF LIFE...BY MAKING YOU SUFFER THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE!
LOOK INTO MY EYES...
FEEL MY POWER...
NOW YOU MUST OBEY ME!
YOUR POWERS ARE NO USE AGAINST THE MIND OF A NINJA!
NOW, FEEL THE STING OF MY SHURIKEN!

THUK
THUK
THUNK
HA! HA! HA!
YOUR AIM IS GOOD BUT THE EFFORT IS WASTED! IF YOU WERE TRUE NINJA YOU WOULD KNOW YOU CANNOT KILL WHAT IS ALREADY DEAD! YOU'RE A JOKE...NOTHING MORE THAN FRIGHTENED LITTLE GIRLS PRETENDING TO BE FEARLESS! WELL, LET ME BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU... YOU HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE AFRAID! DEATH, LITTLE GIRLS, IS CALLING FOR YOU...AND I SHALL TAKE YOU TO HIM!
I DON'T CARE IF YOUR PARENTS WERE NINJA! THE FACT REMAINS YOU ARE NOT! I HAVE TASTED THE BLOOD OF MANY A NINJA AND YOURS IS SO MUCH SWEETER!
YOU DARE INSULT THE FOUR KUNOICHI?! WE ARE PROUD DESCENDENTS OF THE KOGA NINJA CLAN! DEATH DOES NOT FRIGHTEN US, DEMON!
EVERYTHING DIES! AND TONIGHT WE'LL PROVE THAT'S TRUE...EVEN FOR YOU!
iiEEEEE!

SISTERS... HELP ME! I... I FEEL SO...STRANGE.
THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO SAVE YOU FROM YOUR FATE, CHILD! YOU ARE TRANSFORMING...BECOMING...ONE OF THE UNDEAD! SOON YOU WILL STAND BY MY SIDE...A WARRIOR IN MY LEGION OF DARKNESS!
YOU SICK, PERVERTED, POINTY EARED BEAST! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SORI?
I INTEND TO DO THE SAME TO THE REST OF YOU! SUCKING YOU DRY OF LIFE WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE WHEN I COULD MAKE YOU MY SLAVES FOR ETERNITY! THERE IS NOTHING, NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! SHE IS NO LONGER YOUR SISTER! SHE BELONGS TO ME! YOU WILL ALL BELONG TO ME!

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE IF YOU FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND!
WHAT IS THAT... SHAOLIN PHILOSOPHY?! BUT OF COURSE! I KNEW THE BLOOD OF YOUR SISTER TASTED FAMILIAR!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
FOUR KUNG FU GIRLS TRAVELING ALONE AT NIGHT, THINKING THEY ARE NINJA! YOU AMUSE THIS OLD CREATURE! YOU MAKE ME LAUGH! BUT, ALAS, THE DAWN APPROACHES!
BAMPH!

HEAR ME, FOUR KUNOICHI, WE WILL MEET AGAIN, AND YOU WILL BECOME MY SLAVES! THERE IS NOWHERE YOU CAN HIDE! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO! YOUR FATE BELONGS TO DARKNESS!
I'LL BE COMING FOR YOU...FOR THE SWEET TASTE OF YOUR BLOOD...IF YOUR LITTLE SISTER DOESN'T TASTE IT FIRST!
HA!
HA! HA! HÁ!
HA!
HA!

SORI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I THINK I'M OK. JUST A LITTLE WEAK, AND REALLY... REALLY...
HUNGRY!
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE FOUR KUNOICH: "ENTER THE SINJA" ON SALE IN TWO MONTHS! THE ACTION IS JUST GETTING STARTED!

THE FOUR KUNOICHI - LETTERS COLUMN

LIGHTNING COMICS • ATTN. JOHN CLEARY • 8424 SLIVERY LANE • DEARBORN HTS. MI 48127

Hey, everybody! John Cleary here! I'm drawing a blank, trying to come up with a title for THE FOUR KUNOICHI letters column, so I've decided to let you, the fans, take a shot at it! Whoever sends me the name I decide to use will win a free piece of THE FOUR KUNOICHI original art, PLUS you'll get to see your title in print in future issues of THE FOUR KUNOICHI! So, please, take the time to jot down your ideas. While you're at it, let me know your thoughts about this issue of THE FOUR KUNOICHI. You can send your letters to: Lightning Comics, Attn. John Cleary, 8424 Silvery Lane, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127.

Since we don't have any FOUR KUNOICHI letters to respond to in this column yet (this is a brand new title, after all) I'm gonna' print a few of my SINJA fan letters. By the way, thanks to all who wrote in regarding SINJA. If I haven't responded to your letter yet, I apologize. I was overwhelmed with the response to SINJA and will, eventually, answer your letters as promised. Some of them I'll be answering now. So, here we go . . .

Hello John,

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know that I appreciate your work. I just finished reading your new SINJA title and found it quite pleasing. This was a GREAT first issue! It gave me a history and evolution of the character that began at the very beginning of the story and evolved all the way through to the last page, leaving me no doubt as how the main character came to be what he was. And all of this in one self contained comic story! You must be congratulated because most writers/creators are usually afraid of giving away too much of a character's history at the beginning, I can only suppose, due to the fear of not having any story left to tell! I can only imagine what kind of path you will lead us into with this great character. But we won't have to imagine it, will we, since you're going to give it to us! I promise I'll be there to read it!

Your artwork needs to be commended as well. This darker character seems to fit your style much better than some of your other works. Your art in SINJA seems to have a Jae Lee feel to it. All I can ask is, make it even darker and more moody than it already is!

I would also like to add that you are a great fan person. When you were working on Boof for Image, you came to a small comic show close to my hometown. At that show, while we (my daughter and I) were talking to you, you signed a copy of the new Boof issue you had and GAVE it to my daughter! We didn't ask for anything, you just did it. That was a personal touch that a lot of other creators lack.

Please continue to put out quality material and we (my daughter and I) will continue to find it. I have to admit, I stumbled onto SINJA by accident but I am very glad I did.

-- Randy Hatch
Cave Spring, GA

Thanks Randy! I think I remember the show you're talking about! I'm glad you liked SINJA and maybe, one day, it will be back out on the stands. Unfortunately, Sinja experienced a major drop in orders, causing us to put the RESURRECTION mini-series on hold. In the mean time, I'll be working on this series, THE FOUR KUNOICHI, so let me know what you think of it. I'm also working on a SHE-SINJA comic for '97 that should kick-butt!

PS. You can look forward to a SINJA appearance in the next few issues of THE FOUR KUNOICHI! It should be pretty cool!

Later! -- John

Dear Mr. Cleary,

I have followed and enjoyed your work ever since the BOOF series. I was thrilled to see your new comic, SINJA, and bought the limited cover edition as soon as I could! I was even more thrilled to see the amazing art and incredible story you produced.

The art in this comic is very unique and the story was very suspenseful. You captured the essence of honor and betrayal of the ninja perfectly. It was also really cool to read about your struggle to rise in the comic business, one which takes a lot of talent. Your personal story is very inspiring. An added plus is that you like to listen to Metallica! They are also my favorite band and I think they kick butt! Did you get their new album? It rocks!

Going back to Sinja, I am really looking forward for the new series coming out in August. Hopefully, you will get the praise and acclaim that you deserve for this outstanding piece of work!

Sincerely,
Ala Yousefi
Sacramento , CA

Dear Ala,

Thanks a lot for the kind words! I'm glad to hear from such a loyal fan! As you probably noticed, SINJA has momentarily disappeared. I love the character, but the

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dramatic drop in orders for SINJA: RESURRECTION #1 made it impossible to continue publishing it. It's a difficult time in the industry as a whole. Hopefully, if you and other readers of THE FOUR KUNOICHI advance order this series with your local dealers THE FOUR KUNOICHI will meet with better success.

In January I premier a new SINJA warrior in THE FOUR KUNOICHI: ENTER THE SINJA #1! Also, I agree . . the new Metallica album KICKS MAJOR BOOTY!

Later! -- John

Dear John,

Thank you for the copy of SINJA! I'm sorry to take so long to thank you for your kindness, but it's been hectic here -- the fans just can't seem to get enough of our X-FILES and MARS ATTACKS comics!

But, more to the point, I want to especially thank you for the nice things you said about Jim Salicrup and myself. From the very beginning, I saw that you had the talent that could take you far in the industry, I'm just happy that I was there to help you. Everything you've accomplished, you've done through your own hard efforts. You've earned your success! And I am confident that you'll continue to be successful in the industry--you've got the right combination of talent and persistence to go far.

SINJA really shows fans the full range of your abilities. It's exciting, fun, and for me a real treat to see what you're doing now. Keep it up! And stay in touch!

Kindest regards,
Dwight Jon Zimmerman
Executive Editor
Topps Comics

Dear Dwight,

Thanks for the kind letter. You and the gang over there are TOPPS in my book!

Dear John Cleary,

Let me start by saying SINJA kicks some serious butt!! For me to like a comic book it's got to have a good foundation as far as the plot goes. The plot for SINJA is great (in my humble opinion) and I can't wait to get the next issue!

Keep up the good work!
Chris Dowling
Williamsburg, VA

Thanks a lot Chris. Glad you liked SINJA. Please drop me a line and let me know how you like THE FOUR KUNOICHI.

To John and Tim,

I really liked your new book, SINJA! Its got great potential! I look forward to the mini-series. And, being a Nira-X fan, I'll be looking for the HELLINA/NIRA X crossover. Keep up the good work!

A fellow Metallica fan,
Dawn Patton
Riverside, CA

Yes! Another Metallica fan! And a girl, too! We need more female comic readers in this crazy biz! Hey, Dawn, let me know what you think of this issue. See ya!

Dear SINJA (John and Tim Cleary),

First off, you've got me hooked! The origin issue of SINJA rattled me off the floor! I couldn't believe the stunning, masterful art that was displayed throughout the whole story! If this isn't going to be a hit, then Mercedes Benz is making lemons! This comic shakes with power! SINJA is the most awesome character I have come across in a long time! I was taken on a ride and believe me, I didn't want it to stop! Congratulations, John and Tim, for such a masterpiece! I was very impressed!

The origin story was complex, but I hung on and absorbed every ounce of Asian history you were throwing at me! At no time was I ever bored! The story was suspenseful and laced with action! When I was in the Army, some of my fondest memories came from Tokyo, Japan. I admired the people, culture and customs. Your comic shows full respect and admiration of this country.

My son, Jason, got a charge out of Sinja, too! He loves the martial arts and right now is a green belt in Tai-Kwon-Do. He found your comic very informative when relating to the martial arts clans and their backgrounds. The Japanese are a proud people and their country is rich in history. I loved you starting the story in 13th century Japan! I knew when I first opened the book this was going to be a blockbuster of a comic.

The elemental demons known as Chi (Earth), Sui (Water), Moku (Wood), Kin (Metal) and Ka (Fire) (see, now you even have me speaking Japanese!) were the most terrifying, dynamic demon force to be reckoned with! How is SINJA going to deal with these monumental (kick butt, take names later) demons in Japan, 1996? Talk about suspense! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! See you next issue!

Sincerely yours,
Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, CA

Thanks, Paul! I'm glad the history caught your eye! I, too, am a martial artist and have a keen interest in Asian culture. I wanted to fill SINJA with tidbits

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of history so readers might actually learn something about the life of historic ninja. Again, I'm glad you enjoyed SINJA and look forward to hearing what you thought of THE FOUR KUNOICHI.

John,

Congratulations on your growing success in the comic industry. On a monthly basis I allocate part of my comic budget for new titles, and SINJA was one of those I decided to try.

I enjoyed SINJA's origin for its solid character background. I compare its intricacies to that of Shi (Tucci) and Kabuki (Mack). It's evident that much thought and time went into the development of this Japanese legend! I also saw some parallels with the Spawn origin, as Ku appears to be a devil figure and the five demons fit the role of Violator and his brothers, as well as Seishan being similar to Angela.

I would have liked to have seen the initial defeat of the three elemental demons that were not shown. As an artist, you could have had some fun with a panel by panel interpretation of the demise of these creatures. I presume that death on Earth, for them, merely returns them to their supernatural realm. Some details I look forward to learning about in future issues is an explanation of SINJA's various powers, like Henso-Jutsu, as his powers and talents are further revealed.

In summary, you've put together a character that seems to have the developmental integrity consistent with other independents that have found success in the comic market. I was pleased to read that you were also planning to open your own studio. I wish you the best of luck with all your endeavors. The industry needs more talent entering the market to keep the quality of the comic genre at its apex. Continue the good work!

Respectfully,
Jayson Duffy

Thanks, Jayson.! I'm thrilled that you would compare SINJA to the likes of Shi, Kabuki and Spawn! I'm really looking forward to threading the SINJA legend through the next issue of THE FOUR KUNOICHI and releasing SHE-SINJA in March of '97 (I'm planning to maintain a bi-monthly schedule with this new title, provided market conditions allow. Translation: advance order with your dealer, please!) I really love the SINJA character and it breaks my heart that the orders fell so drastically, causing the rest of the mini-series to be postponed.

Well gang, that's about it for now. I'd like to thank David Mowry for the killer inking job in this issue. Due to time constraints, I was unable to ink this issue myself but was fortunate to have David add his talent to this book (David is the regular inker on Lightning's HELLINA series). I plan on returning to ink future issues, beginning with ENTER THE SINJA, in January.

THE FOUR KUNOICHI: ENTER THE SINJA #1 introduces a brand new SINJA character who lives during THE FOUR KUNOICHI's timeline. That's right SINJA fans! Another hero will emerge and his origin will be fully detailed! Expect a return to my darker art style on this issue!

In March, '97, I'm releasing *another* SINJA title (I just love this character too much to leave it alone) . . . *SHE-SINJA!*

Thought you might enjoy a preview peek at some character designs I'm working on!

Thanks for buying this issue and supporting my comics. Until next time!

-- John Cleary

For power, some will do almost anything... even kill.
Kenny Earnings is that kind of guy.
Except Farah Parcheesy may pose more of a problem than he anticipated.
Farah Parcheesy must realize the Vartblade has other suitors.
VARTBLADE #2
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John Cleary • Steven Z • Gorilla
In your store late Febuary or early March ... GUARANTEED!

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The Guide to Comics

1996 FAN AWARDS BALLOT

The 1996 *Wizard* Fan Awards are upon us and it's time for you, the comic fans of the world, to determine the best of the best! Comic fan voting will determine the winners of these prestigious awards. Nominees are provided as determined through a "Wizard World" America Online poll. If you don't like any of the nominees, feel free to vote for anybody or anything you want...including the li'l diddy you're holding in your hands!

You can use this ballot (or a photocopy) to vote, as long as you follow these rules and regulations:

1) **Only material that shipped in the calendar year 1996 is eligible.**
2) **You may vote for only *one* entry in any category. Multiple votes are all disqualified.**
3) **You need not vote for a listed nominee. Write-in candidates are perfectly acceptable.**
4) **You may send in only *one* ballot. All multiple ballots are disqualified.**
5) **Ready? GO!**

FAVORITE WRITER
- ❑ Kurt Busiek
- ❑ Peter David
- ❑ Garth Ennis
- ❑ Scott Lobdell
- ❑ Mark Waid
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE PENCILER
- ❑ J. Scott Campbell
- ❑ Adam Kubert
- ❑ Jim Lee
- ❑ Joe Madureira
- ❑ Joe Quesada
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE INKER
- ❑ Alex Garner
- ❑ Todd McFarlane
- ❑ Jimmy Palmiotti
- ❑ Tim Townsend
- ❑ Scott Williams
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COLORIST
- ❑ Laura Allred
- ❑ Joe Chiodo
- ❑ Digital Chameleon
- ❑ Electric Crayon
- ❑ International House of Color
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE LETTERER
- ❑ Chris Eliopoulos
- ❑ Todd Klein
- ❑ Tom Orzechowski
- ❑ Rick Parker
- ❑ Richard Starkings and ComicCraft
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE EDITOR
- ❑ Joey Cavalieri
- ❑ Mark Gruenwald
- ❑ Bob Harras
- ❑ Stuart Moore
- ❑ Denny O'Neil
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE MALE HERO
- ❑ Batman
- ❑ Spawn
- ❑ Spider-Man
- ❑ Superman
- ❑ Wolverine
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE FEMALE HEROINE
- ❑ Angela
- ❑ Lady Death
- ❑ Rogue
- ❑ Shi
- ❑ Witchblade
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE VILLAIN
- ❑ Dr. Doom
- ❑ Onslaught
- ❑ Ra's al Ghul
- ❑ Sabretooth
- ❑ Saint of Killers
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER
- ❑ Arseface
- ❑ Lois Lane
- ❑ Mary Jane Parker
- ❑ Norman McCay
- ❑ Terry Fitzgerald
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE ONGOING SERIES
- ❑ *Gen*^{13}
- ❑ *Preacher*
- ❑ *Spawn*
- ❑ *Uncanny X-Men*
- ❑ *Untold Tales of Spider-Man*
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE ONE-SHOT OR MINI-SERIES
- ❑ *Kingdom Come*
- ❑ *Legends of the Dark Claw*
- ❑ *Marvel versus DC*
- ❑ *Onslaught* "bookends"
- ❑ *Spider-Boy*
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE PUBLISHER
- ❑ Dark Horse
- ❑ DC
- ❑ Image
- ❑ Marvel
- ❑ Sirius
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC MERCHANDISE
- ❑ Madman yo-yo (Graphitti Designs)
- ❑ Sandman bookends (DC Comics)
- ❑ Sin City lighter (Graphitti Designs)
- ❑ Swamp Thing statue (DC Comics)
- ❑ *X-Men: Children of the Atom* video game (Acclaim)
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC TRADING CARD SET
- ❑ *Amalgam* (Fleer/SkyBox)
- ❑ *Kingdom Come Extra* (Fleer/SkyBox)
- ❑ *Onslaught: Marvel Universe* (Fleer/SkyBox)
- ❑ *Return of the Jedi Widevision* (Topps)
- ❑ *Superman Action Packs* (Fleer/SkyBox)
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC TOY LINE
- ❑ Spawn series 6 (McFarlane Toys)
- ❑ Star Wars: Power of the Force (Kenner)
- ❑ Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire (Kenner)
- ❑ Total Justice (Kenner)
- ❑ X-Men Classics Light-Ups (Toy Biz)
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC ANIMATION
- ❑ "Space Ghost Coast to Coast"
- ❑ "Spider-Man"
- ❑ "Superman"
- ❑ "The Tick"
- ❑ "X-Men"
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC LIVE-ACTION
- ❑ "Babylon 5"
- ❑ "Generation X"
- ❑ "Lois and Clark"
- ❑ "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"
- ❑ "The X-Files"
- ❑ write-in_____

COMICS' GREATEST MOMENT—1996
- ❑ Arrival of Captain Marvel, *Kingdom Come* #3
- ❑ Heroes sacrifice themselves to stop Onslaught, *Onslaught: Marvel Universe*
- ❑ Return of Peter Parker, *Spider-Man* #75
- ❑ Sacrifice of Hal Jordan, *Final Night* #4
- ❑ Wedding of Superman and Lois Lane, *Superman Wedding Album*
- ❑ write-in_____

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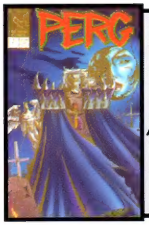

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